

The Bishop's Weekly Chat With You.

My dear Flock:

This time I am writing to express my heartfelt appreciation for all the messages of sympathy received following the death of my Father, at Huntington, on December 26th. Nearly all of our priests assured me that they would remember him in their Masses, many of them actually offered the Holy Sacrifice especially for him, and more than seventy priests attended his funeral despite the fact that the only notification they had of his death came through the newspapers.

From the Motherhouse of Sisterhoods came the word that he was being remembered in public prayer and in all the private Communions, prayers and good works of the Sisters.

Now while I recognize that much of this attention which my father's death received was occasioned by the good will of the clergy, sisters, and laity towards myself, there is a hidden lesson contained in it all. It is that the parent of a priest is likely to be remembered much more in prayer, even by clergy and lay people not related to him or her than is the parent of any other one whomsoever. The same might be said of the parent of a Sister Religious. Not only does the parent share in the fervent prayers of his or her daughter in the convent, but in the prayers of practically every member of the Religious Community to which she belongs.

The parents are fortunate who precede their son priest or their daughter Religious in death.

My father passed away very quietly and peacefully after being strengthened by all the rites of the Church, which he received in full consciousness. We hope that the merits of his ninety years of life rather than the merits will be regarded by the Supreme Judge, and that the vast accumulation of Masses and prayers and good works offered for him by both acquaintances and non-acquaintances will have, even ere this, passed him through Purgatory into "the Joy of the Lord".

Let us all learn this excellent lesson of praying for one another, of having sympathy for one another and of offering up at least one aspiration or good work each day in behalf of those who will be passing out of life before the day is over.

Wishing every reader a great measure of God's blessings, spiritual and temporal, during the year 1932, I am,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

John F. Neill, S.J.
Bp. of Ft. Wayne

Excavations Attest Historical Accuracy Of Bible Narratives

Jerusalem.—The accuracy of the Bible narratives contained in the Books of Joshua and Judges is attested by discoveries made in excavations in the Holy Land, according to Professor Garstang, non-Catholic director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

Professor Garstang, who, as director of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine, for three years carried out excavations, presents evidence in support of Bible History in his latest book, "The Foundation of Bible History—Joshua and Judges."

"In view of the remarkable accuracy in fullness of topographical detail in the earlier portion of the Book of Joshua, and the parallelism of certain passages in the Book of Judges with contemporary Egyptian archives, it is difficult to believe that these records were not written down in any form until the ninth or eighth century B. C., to which period the early documents are attributed, that is from 300 to 500 years after the events described," Professor Garstang writes.

Masses For Official Who Aided Restoration Of War-Torn Churches

Paris.—In the reconstructed churches along the former front, a hundred Masses will be celebrated for the repose of the soul of M. Loecheur who, as Minister of the Liberated Regions, authorized and furnished the loan by which 2,226 churches have been rebuilt since the World War.

PRIEST-SCIENTIST EXPLODES THEORY OF "MISSING LINK"

Vienna.—Discoveries made in the vicinity of Peking by Abbe Henri Breuil, Professor of the Sorbonne and one of the world's leading paleontologists, have completely exploded the latest "missing link" theory of those scholars seeking to establish the descent of man from man.

Abbe Breuil's letter reports on research work done at Chou Kou Tien, China, where, in 1922, Dr. O. Skansky, a young Austrian explorer, made some astounding finds. Subsequent digging revealed the remains of more than a dozen men. The fossils were found in a stratum which, no doubt, belongs to the youngest tertiary formation and partly at a depth of sixty feet below the present surface of the earth.

By means of skeletons found prior to that time, the appearance of man on earth could be traced back only to the diluvium and it was considered an established fact that man was non-existent in the tertiary formation of earth. Dr. Skansky's startling discoveries, therefore, resulted in extensive excavation work being undertaken in the region from 1922 to 1929 with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation. Four thousand square meters of rock and fossiliferous earth were dug up and nearly 1,500 cases of fossils were obtained.

The great question was whether the fossils were those of real men. The remains showed features to be found in no species of known present or fossil man. This creature had no chin, yet the lower part of the head fell back, and the upper part of the skull had a receding forehead and thick tarsi on the eyebrows. They differed more from the present form of the human skeleton than any fossils of the diluvial time.

Supporters of the theory that man developed from the ape were jubilant. To them it was a hard and fast fact that Synanthropus Pekinensis was the long searched-for link between animal and man. If this being were "link" only, it would not have been endowed with reason. It was, therefore, of great consequence for the value of the finds to determine whether the fossils left any traces of rational actions.

Endowed With Reason
Now Abbe Breuil, who was called to Peking to take part in the research work there, has just returned from his journey, and, in a report to the Rev. Wilhelm Schmidt, Professor of the University of Vienna and Director of the Vatican Museum of Ethnology, states:

"My studies have determined that Synanthropus made plenty of fire; that he constructed thousands of tools of

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Slack Of Money Flow From U. S. Balanced By Dollar's Value In Erin

Dublin.—The marked falling off this year in the Christmas remittances to Ireland from friends in the United States is to some extent compensated by the operations of the Exchange.

The story is told that in a country bank an old countrywoman, producing a ten dollar note asked the bank clerk, "Will ye give me as much as ye gave me last year on this Yankee note?" "Yes," said the teller, "and a bit over. It is worth 2 pound, 16 shilling this year." "Thank God," said the old woman, "and why do people say that there is no more money in America?"

DePaul U. Graduate School's Dean Marks 25th Year As Priest

Chicago.—The Rev. Alexander P. Schorsch, C. M., dean of the Graduate School of DePaul University, recently celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination at St. Vincent's church, where many students and alumni gathered to offer their felicitations.

Father Schorsch was ordained in St. Louis in 1906, taught at St. Mary's Seminary, Perryville, Mo., and at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver. He later studied in Europe for two years. He came to DePaul in 1927 as professor of Psychology and was appointed dean of the Graduate School the same year.

Priest Gets Highest Bolivian Decoration

La Paz, Bolivia.—The Government of Bolivia has just conferred upon the Rev. P. M. Descotte, S. J., head of the San Calixto Observatory, here, the decoration "Condor of the Andes," the highest Bolivian decoration.

The honor was conferred upon Father Descotte for his study of the true geographical location of the city of La Paz, the longitude of which he has fixed in correction of a former erroneous measurement. The revision of the longitude of La Paz also affects the longitude of Santiago, Chile. Father Descotte has been engaged in this work for over twenty years and has written two important books.

BISHOPS' STATEMENT ON RELIEF INSERTED IN SENATE RECORDS

Wm. F. Montavon, At Hearing of Committee, Files With Group Declaration Issued By U. S. Prelates Last November.

Washington.—The statement on relief in the present crisis issued by the Catholic Bishops of the United States last November was read into the record of the hearings which a sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Manufactures is holding on two Senate Bills appropriating federal funds to aid home relief for unemployment in the several states. Leave to insert the statement in the record was granted by the committee to William F. Montavon, Director of the Legal Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, who was one of those heard during the day.

Others to appear before the committee were the Rev. Dr. John O'Grady, Secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities; Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor; Miss Joanna C. Colcord, director of the charity organization department of the Russell Sage Foundation; Sidney E. Goldstein, chairman of the executive committee of the Joint Committee on Unemployment of New York City.

"I respectfully submit for the record of this Committee's hearing," said Mr. Montavon, "the following paragraph, taken from a longer statement on the existing economic depression issued at the annual meeting of the Bishops of the United States, eighty of whom were personally present November 11, 1931, at Washington, D. C."

"While co-operating in these private efforts, we are convinced, because of the vastness of the number suffering, that federal and state appropriations for relief in some form will become necessary."

Centralization Opposed

"Of course, this statement of the National Catholic Welfare Conference was made without reference to any particular legislative measure. The short time in which the Congress has been in session has not permitted adequate consideration of particular measures proposed to meet the grave and far-reaching need to which the National Catholic Welfare Conference statement refers. Consequently, we cannot express any authorized approval or disapproval of the specific bills before your Committee. We may, however, state that with regard to all legislative measures seeking to relieve the present emergency caused by unemployment, the Administrative Committee, N. C. W. C., would request that no more centralization be

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U. S. Socialists Cable Pope Gift Of Nearly Million Good Works

St. Louis.—The cablegram which sent the Sodality of Our Lady Christmas gift to the Holy Father listed 253,278 Masses, 230,865 Holy Communions, and over 400,000 prayers and good works offered for his intention.

This total was the result of the Triduum held before the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The project, initiated by the Central Office of the Sodality of Our Lady, met with quick and eager response from Socialists everywhere.

In the white leather bound booklet which followed the cablegram were listed 685 sodalities and students' spiritual councils from 41 States. Of these 486 were colleges, universities, and high schools, 145 parishes, and 54 schools of nursing.

Convert Doctor Aids Missionary Catechists

Grants, New Mexico.—Dr. Emelyn Clark, well known doctor of the Southwest, is now co-operating with the Missionary Catechists at their clinic at San Mateo, New Mexico.

Prior to her conversion Dr. Clark was affiliated with a Protestant Missionary Society engaged in medical missionary work in this district. Doubtless it was her charitable activities in behalf of the suffering poor which obtained for her the gift of faith. Following her conversion she was summarily dismissed by the organization under whose auspices she had been laboring. She then discontinued for a time her charitable activities in the foothills of the historic Mt. Taylor. This year, under the auspices of the Missionary Catechists, she has resumed them.

Since the opening of the Mission Center at Grants, New Mexico, the Missionary Catechists have been engaged in medical missionary work in the Mt. Taylor district. With the active co-operation of Dr. Clark, this all-important phase of their missionary work promises splendid results.

OFFICIAL

If you have not renewed your subscription to OUR SUNDAY VISITOR for the year 1932, do so at once unless your pastor has announced that he will gather the subscriptions during Lent this year.

The Officers of parish societies are authorized to subscribe from society funds for CATHOLIC ACTION, the monthly magazine published by the National Catholic Welfare Council. Its purpose is to keep Catholic men and women acquainted with matters of importance as they affect the Catholic Church, and to supply data for Study Clubs as well as for papers to be read at society or sodality meetings.

DR. O'GRADY URGES ROAD BUILDING AS EMPLOYMENT AID

Catholic Charities Secretary Tells Labor Legislation Works Program Imperative — Speaks To Sociologists.

Washington.—The present economic situation seems to offer only two alternatives—a large program of public improvements financed by government credit, or further depreciation of economic values with resultant business and bank failures and increased unemployment—the Rev. Dr. John O'Grady, of the Catholic University of America, Secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, declared in an address to the American Association for Labor Legislation here. The association is one of several groups of social scientists holding their annual meetings here.

Later, Dr. O'Grady addressed the American Sociological Society on "Religion and Juvenile Delinquency."

"All things considered," said Dr. O'Grady in his first address, "the use of government credit on a large scale is a most constructive method of dealing with the present economic situation. Such a proposal cannot be rejected because of the unfavorable experience of England and Germany. These countries depend on foreign markets to a much larger degree than the United States. A large federal bond issue floated in the same dramatic way as our Liberty Loan campaigns would call out much of our hoarded wealth and put it into circulation. Far from restricting them it would create new uses for bond credit."

"If the federal government fails to use its credit boldly in the present

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\$27,992 Is Expended For Louisville Poor

Louisville.—The annual report of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Diocese of Louisville shows that members paid 11,117 visits to the poor during the year. The number of families receiving aid totaled 1,077. Expenditures for food, clothing, fuel, rent and medical aid amounted to \$27,992.50.

Resolutions of Sympathy Communicated to His Excellency, the Most Reverend Bishop, on the Death of his Father

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God, in His infinite Wisdom, to call from our midst, to his eternal reward, John Noll, the beloved father of the Most Reverend John Francis Noll, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne;

Whereas, his life as the devoted father of a large family and his strong, unwavering faith in God have been a source of edification to all members of the communities in which he lived;

Whereas, in the order of Divine Providence, he was the father of the Most Reverend John Francis Noll, who was raised to the dignity and fullness of the priesthood as Bishop of our diocese;

Therefore, he it resolved, that we, the clergy of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, hereby extend our deepest sympathy to our beloved Bishop and to the bereaved family of this splendid exemplar of our faith, John Noll.

Requiescat in pace.
The Priests of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne.

ARCHBISHOP DIAZ REPEATS REFUSAL TO ACCEPT LAW

Primate, In Pastoral Letter, Cautions Against Violence And Plans Peaceful Resistance Against Persecution — Capital Churches Closed.

Mexico City.—The promulgation of the new law under Article 130 of the Constitution, limiting to 25 the number of priests and churches in the Federal District; in which Mexico City is situated, which caused the Most Rev. Pascual Diaz, Archbishop of Mexico City, to write an open letter to the President of the Republic, has caused him also to issue a Pastoral Letter in which he declared that neither as a citizen nor as Archbishop of Mexico can he accept the provisions of the new law. However, the Archbishop cautions strictly against violence, and makes it clear Catholic resistance to this latest move of persecution is to be peaceful.

As a result of the new law approximately 190 churches would be without priests and services. In accordance with the presidential decree, Catholics may conduct services in the church but without the intervention of their clergymen, and persons who wish to take charge of the priestless churches must make application to the Minister of Gobernacion within thirty days after the promulgation of the law.

The fifth article of the decree declares that "at any time the Secretariat of Gobernacion can revoke the custodians of a church, designating other persons or closing the church."

Article 6 declares the Federal Government can designate any church for public usage other than religious worship and withdraw the church from the care of its custodian.

Mexican Public Indignant

Public opinion, which had remained confident that the legislative action would meet with an Executive Veto, is agitated and indignant at this latest interference with the freedom of worship. More and more exaggerated difficulties are predicted in the application of the new law. Omega, an opposition paper which has not been suspended probably because of its small circulation in the Republic, has published two articles criticizing the violence and persecutions against the Catholic Church, which not only deny religious liberty to the Catholic majority of the nation, but make it impossible for the people to co-operate with their Government.

As a result of the new law the Mexican capital found itself without Masses on New Year's Day. Hundreds of Catholics will go to Cuernavaca and other towns in sections adjacent to the Federal District to hear Mass tomorrow.

Meantime, the Catholic peaceful resistance to the new law has begun promptly. Several priests have filed petitions with the courts for writs to stay execution of the law. It is expected that more than 500 such petitions will be filed. It also is planned to have thousands of laymen apply for the writs, asserting the law to be unconstitutional.

Driven From Russia, Priest Becomes Aide At French Embassy

Paris.—The former rector of the French Church at Moscow, Mgr. Vidal, driven from Russia by Soviet sectarianism, has been appointed by the French Government, with the approval of the Holy See, as canonical councillor of the French Embassy to the Vatican, succeeding the recently deceased Abbe Wetterle, a former Deputy from Alsace.

Two Diocesan Priests Are Seriously Ill

Two well known Fort Wayne diocesan priests are seriously ill. The Rev. Bernard Wiedan, ninety-one, residing at 207 Jacobs Ave., Fort Wayne, is now confined to bed suffering from the infirmities of his advanced age. He was pastor of St. John's church, New Haven, from 1873 until about thirteen years ago, when he retired.

The Rev. Miles P. Howland, pastor of St. Aloysius church, Yoder, and formerly an assistant at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, is in a critical condition. His brother, Charles Howland, of Detroit, Mich., is at his bedside. Father Howland, who is fifty-one years of age, underwent an operation in July at St. Joseph's hospital, Fort Wayne, and while later returned to his home, has continued to fail in health. He has been supplied since his illness by the clergy from the Cathedral and was recently given the last rites by the Rev. Curt A. Suelzer.

CATHOLIC QUINTETS NOT TO ENTER THE NATIONAL MEETS

The board of control of the Indiana Catholic High School Athletic Association met on January 2, 1932, at the Cathedral high school to decide upon a number of important matters. Foremost among these was the decision to hold the annual basketball tournament for the Catholic high schools of the state at the Armory, Indianapolis, February 26 to 27. The Rev. Brother William, C. S. C., together with members of local committees will have charge of arrangements.

A far-reaching decision was reached by the board when it recorded the vote of the member schools relative to the question of participation in national tournaments. With a vote of seven to two, it was agreed upon that participation in such tournaments should be abolished, in so far as the state tournament should constitute the close of the basketball season for the Catholic high schools of the state. An exception was made in the case of a boarding school, which might possibly derive some benefit for itself in participating in such a tournament. This matter, however, was left to the discretion of the particular school.

The Rev. Father Norbert, O. S. B., Jasper Academy, Jasper; Mr. Frank Holmes, Anderson; and the Rev. P. J. Schmid, Catholic Central, Hammond, are the members of the board of control of the organization. They are of the unanimous opinion that much useful work has been accomplished during the first year of the existence of their organization.

Church Groups Flay Causes Of Unemployment

Washington.—The fact that church forces have been called upon to organize unemployment relief makes imperative their moral duty to challenge the social injustices which have made relief necessary, it was declared recently in a joint statement issued by the Social Service Commission of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, the Department of Social Action of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and the Social Justice Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Not since the joint attack on the twelve-hour day in the steel industry by these three national religious bodies has a statement of such importance been issued by them. Representatives of the three organizations—Protestant, Catholic and Jewish—the Rev. James Myers, the Rev. R. A. McGowan and Rabbi Edward L. Israel, interpreted the statement as having extraordinary significance.

Clergy Attend Mass In Hammond For Bishop's Father

Hammond.—Nearly twenty-five priests from all over the Calumet region gathered in St. Joseph's church here last Wednesday to attend the solemn Requiem Mass celebrated for John G. Noll, father of the Bishop of Fort Wayne.

The Mass was a tribute offered by those of the local clergy who were not able to journey to Fort Wayne for the funeral rites.

The Very Rev. Francis Jansen, pastor of St. Joseph's, was celebrant; the Rev. Edward Mungovan, pastor of All Saints' church, deacon; and the Rev. Julian Skraypink, pastor of St. Stanislaus' church, East Chicago, sub-deacon; and Robert Weiss, seminarian from St. Joseph's, master of ceremonies.

Priest Wins Ballot For Leading Citizen

Ennis, Tex.—The Rev. Patrick J. Murphy, pastor of Holy Redeemer Church, has been named Ennis' "Most Valuable Citizen," it is revealed in a tally of the ballots cast in the Lions' Club-Ennis Daily News contest.

Fifteen citizens were named by the voters, but Father Murphy received more votes than all of the others combined. He came to Ennis five years ago.

Catholic Boy Hero Honored

Buffalo, N. Y.—Thomas J. Wiseman, 16 years old, a student at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, will be one of two local boys to receive certificates of heroism from the national headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America at the annual banquet to be held January 26. He saved a 7-year-old boy from drowning.

Pittsburgh Diocese Reports Aid To Poor

Pittsburgh.—A total of \$69,674.03 was expended by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of this diocese in supplying food, fuel and clothing to the poor in the last year. Relief was provided for 1,808 families.

PRESIDENT ATTENDS REQUIEM MASS FOR RICHARD V. OULAHAN

Nation's Leaders Pay Last Tribute To Famed Catholic Newspaperman At Services In Capital—President and Mrs. Hoover Attend.

Washington.—President and Mrs. Hoover, accompanied by two of the White House secretaries and the usual corps of secret service men, attended the requiem Mass said at Holy Trinity Catholic Church here Saturday for Richard V. Oulahan, Washington correspondent of the New York Times and dean of the corps of correspondents in the Capital, who died at his home in this city, Wednesday, Mr. Oulahan was in his sixty-fifth year and had been head of the Times bureau here for nearly 20 years.

The Rt. Rev. Magr. Edward L. Buckley, pastor of St. Matthew's Church, was celebrant of the Mass and spoke briefly. The Rev. Peter V. Masterson, S. J., of Georgetown University, and the Rev. John J. Bernard, S. J., assistant pastor of Holy Trinity Church, assisted at the Mass.

As soon as he was apprised of Mr. Oulahan's death, on Wednesday, President Hoover sent the following message to Mrs. Oulahan:

"I have learned with profound regret of the death of your husband, Richard V. Oulahan was an outstanding journalist, a good friend and wise counselor. Few writers of our day have done more to disseminate truth regarding national affairs, always for the advancement of our country. He was highly deserving of the designation voluntarily given him by his fellow journalists, 'dean' of the corps of Washington correspondents. His passing is a personal loss to me. Mrs. Hoover joins with me in expressing heartfelt sympathy to you and yours."

President Hoover was kept informed daily of Mr. Oulahan's condition during his last illness. Dr. Joel T. Boone, White House physician, consulted daily with Mr. Oulahan's doctor.

In addition to the President, those who hastened to pay tribute to the work and character of Mr. Oulahan included: Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, Vice President Curtis, former President Coolidge, former Governor Alfred E. Smith, members of the cabinet, leading figures in the Senate and House of Representatives, members of the diplomatic corps, ranking officers of the Army and Navy, and numerous others prominent in the nation's life.

Gunmen Rob Church Of \$1,000 Poor Fund

Chicago.—While hundreds of parishioners were on the sidewalks, leaving church after a novena service, three robbers entered the rectory of Holy Trinity church and robbed the parish of \$1,000 which was intended for relief of poor families.

Birth Control Book's Misleading Quotation Of Priest Is Dropped

Washington.—G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York publishers, in reply to an inquiry from the N. C. W. C. News Service, have written to say that in the next printing of a circular advertising the book, "Married Love," by Dr. Marie Stopes, birth control advocate, they will eliminate a statement quoting Father St. John, S. J., as seemingly approving the volume.

The publishers further stated that they are asking Dr. Stopes to eliminate the same statement from the preface to the book which had nothing to do with birth control, the main topic treated. He pointed out, however, that this commendation of a certain part of the book had been made to appear as an approbation of the entire book, and said this was a great injustice to him, since he strongly disapproved of the birth control assertions in the volume.

Father St. John, when located in England, stated that he wrote a letter to Dr. Stopes commending a certain section of the book which had nothing to do with birth control, the main topic treated. He pointed out, however, that this commendation of a certain part of the book had been made to appear as an approbation of the entire book, and said this was a great injustice to him, since he strongly disapproved of the birth control assertions in the volume.

The CATHOLIC WORLD through the CAMERA

Christmas In Japan



The Christmas crib, recalling the Nativity of Our Lord in Bethlehem, is particularly appealing to the children of Japan. The children of the Sisters' schools bring their stories of joy and sorrow to the manger. Many pray for the conversion of their parents to Catholicism. The practice of children of pagan parents to bring their fathers and mothers to the church at Christmas time leads to a number of conversions, missionaries report.

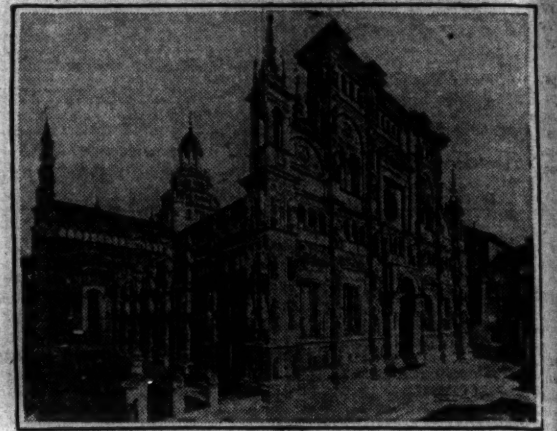
View Of St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican



A view of St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican, with an arrow pointing to the roof which, according to reports, collapsed and crashed through the famous Sala Sistina. The roof covered that portion of the Vatican Library which was constructed by Pope Sixtus V, in 1588. To the right: A view of the Sala Sistina (Sistine Hall), famous for its magnificent frescoes, art objects, valuable manuscripts and books. According to dispatches from Rome, the roof of this section of the Vatican Library fell through the ceiling of this room and plunged through the floor into the consultation room beneath.



Famous CATHEDRALS and CHURCHES



The Carthusian Chapel and Monastery at Pavia, Italy.



San Fernando Cathedral at San Antonio, Texas, is perhaps the oldest in the United States. It was built by Franciscan monks when Texas belonged to Mexico.

PRIMATE ASSAILS MEXICO CITY LAW LIMITING PRIESTS

Archbishop Diaz In Open Letter to President Ortiz Rubio Says Measure Violates Constitution And Pledge Given By the Chief Executive.

Mexico City.—In an open letter to His Excellency President Ortiz Rubio, the Most Rev. Pascual Diaz, Archbishop of Mexico City, as head of the Mexican Hierarchy, protests against the restriction of priests in Mexico City and the federal district of Lower California and beseeches the President to "listen to the voice and will of the people, not the clamor of a political faction." The Archbishop asks this in the name of the "sincerity, reputation and dignity of the Government," which, he says, depend upon how well the Government respects its promises.

The new law limiting the clergy in the capital and federal district to one for each 50,000 inhabitants is a violation of a pledge made two years ago by Provisional President Emilio Portes Gil, at which time he said that "the Constitution, the laws and government of Mexico are not animated by a desire to destroy the Catholic Church or any other church or to intervene in any manner in their spiritual functions." The Archbishop asks that the President use his influence to bring about reconsideration of the new law by the Mexican Congress.

The letter reads as follows:

"AN OPEN LETTER

"Mexico, December 23, 1931.

"The President of the Mexican

Republic,

Don Pascual Ortiz Rubio,

Chapultepec Palace.

"Your Excellency:

"A sincere and loyal desire for peace, not only between the Church and the State, but for the public peace; and eagerness for the reconstruction of my beloved country, have caused me until today to remain prudently silent on the subject of public events related to these matters and not to compromise my conscience.

"Recent political acts, especially the law enacted yesterday by the Legislative Power of the Nation concerning religious matters, cause me to see very clearly that if I continue to maintain silence and not to raise my voice in protest, serenely and respectfully, but justly and truthfully, I should fail grievously in my duties as priest and citizen and, at the same time, be a traitor to my Faith and Country.

Appeals To President

"For reasons which I shall proceed to explain, in my judgment the law recently passed by the Legislative Power and transmitted to the Executive for approval and execution is unconstitutional and, for this reason, unpatriotic. I also deem it my duty, imposed upon me by my office and pastoral mission, to proclaim the truth and to indicate the course which should be pursued by those who take into their hands the direction of the public task of preserving peace and order, the basis of national happiness.

"In my loyal and ardent desire for peace and reconstruction, and in order to bring about mutual co-operation and aid, I try the last recourse, that of appealing to you to use your influence, legal, personal and as First Magistrate of the Nation, to have the Legislative Body reconsider the erroneous and noxious step which it has taken.

"From the juridical point of view, and based on opinion sanctioned by constitutional principles, the law limits the number of officiating

priests and even the number of churches is clearly unconstitutional. It violates Article 24 of the Constitution, which guarantees for all and every Mexican citizen religious liberty and the right to practice the religion of his choice in church or home; and it is evident that no one of those who form the majority of the population of the Federal District can either profess his religion or practice it, as the law allows to all equally, without a sufficient number of priests.

"It is ridiculous to believe that one priest can meet the spiritual requirements of 50,000 citizens. This is in violation of Article 130 of the Constitution, which empowers Congress only to determine the maximum number of ministers in conformity with local necessities. It is evident that these necessities were not taken into consideration, nor was any attention given to them, according to the stenographic reports published in the press. Furthermore, the limitation of the number of churches to remain open violates the Constitution.

"The statute enacted yesterday has no value as law because, in passing it, the Legislative Power of the Federation exceeded its powers and acted in opposition to the principles of the Constitution itself.

OBLIGATION DISREGARDED

"It is also my opinion, Mr. President, that the sincerity, reputation and dignity of a government depend upon the loyalty with which it complies with its obligations. It cannot abandon to the plans or convictions of a political faction compliance with solemn obligations assumed by a government. This has been done in the present case.

"The Government of Mexico, through the Provisional President, Emilio Portes Gil, declared officially on June 21, 1929:

"It gives me pleasure to take this opportunity to state publicly and with all clarity that neither the constitution, laws nor government of Mexico are animated by a desire to destroy the identity of the Catholic Church or any other church, nor to intervene in any manner with their spiritual functions. In accordance with the oath which I took in assuming the Provisional Presidency of Mexico to comply with the Constitution and laws emanating from it, and to cause them to be complied with, my purpose has been always to adhere honestly to this oath and to see that the laws are applied without sectarian tendencies and without any prejudice. . . .

"The very terms of the law just enacted, and, much more, the reasons upon which the Deputies defend and approve it, are in open contradiction to the obligations contracted by the Government of Mexico.

"In my judgment also, Mr. President, the law in question possesses an even greater legal and constitutional defect. According to the revolutionary doctrine, all authority to legislate, to administer and to govern is bestowed upon the public officials of Mexico only by the people; and especially is it supposed that the legislators represent the people. Their mission and official acts are carried on under popular sanction proceeding from the will of the people, and not in accordance with their own ideals or convictions or those of the political party to which they may belong.

"What Mexico and the entire world have seen during the first part of the present month has demonstrated more impressively what might be done by

STRANGE BUT TRUE CATHOLIC FACTS BUT LITTLE KNOWN

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By M. J. MURRAY

The famous General Baron von Meldegg became a Franciscan priest after the World War.

The large and beautiful POST OFFICE IN MADRID is regarded so affectionately by Spaniards that they call it 'The Cathedral of Our Lady of Communications'

Do you know the correct significance of the letters I-H-S? ANSWER NEXT WEEK

OFFICERS OF THE ENGLISH NAVY STILL SALUTE THE QUARTER DECK, A CUSTOM NOW DEVOID OF MEANING BUT DERIVED FROM CATHOLIC TIMES WHEN A CRUCIFIX AND SMALL ALTAR WERE INVARIABLY ERECTED ON THE QUARTER DECKS OF NAVAL VESSELS

Rev. Charles A. Hickey, Chaplain of the Convent of Notre Dame, Cincinnati, Ohio, who has been created a Domestic Prelate, is the third of five brothers, all priests, who have been so honored. Mrs. Hickey is one of a distinguished family of five sons who are priests, and two daughters who are nuns.

a plebiscite, clearly and determinedly what are the sentiment and will of the people, not just of the Federal District but of the entire nation.

CONSTITUTIONALITY DENIED

"Hence the law to which I refer since it is not an expression of the will and convictions of the people, but of some members of a political party, and is not, constitutionally, a law. The members of the Legislative Power have exceeded the terms of their mandate; they have not represented the wishes of their constituents; their act fails to be legal and constitutional and can have no value.

"So that you may better understand my protest, Mr. President, it is essential that I present it not only from a legal and constitutional viewpoint, but also from the viewpoint of the Catholic Church, the point from which the law is viewed by more than 90 per cent of the Mexican people.

"According to the judgment of Catholics, Article 130 of the Constitution violates and attacks all the rights of the Catholic religion. In my episcopal consecration I swore to defend these rights. Ours is a religion instituted by Jesus Christ, a supernatural society of divine origin which possesses rights bestowed by God Himself, which in its spiritual functions is independent of the State, which exercises exclusively

its power and faculties over its ministers, its teachings, its processes of sanctification and the measure whereby its mission upon earth is accomplished.

"In the law enacted yesterday its second and third articles completely and totally ignore the episcopal jurisdiction over the ministers of faith. In its fourth and fifth articles it converts a priest into a simple employee of the civil power and completely removes from the hands of the Bishop the administration of sacred matters and places them under the custody of the Minister of the Interior.

"The reflex action of this is to compromise the Government officially through the conduct of the First Magistrate of the Nation, as follows: 'that the article of this law which governs the registration of the clergyman shall not signify that the Government must accept the registration of those whose nominations have been made by the hierarchical superior of a respective religious creed or in conformity with the laws of such creed.'

"Members of political parties can reject such ideas; they are not those of the religious faith of our people; consequently they should not cause all of the people headed by their pastors and priests to regard this law as an unheard-of outrage of the public power against religion, as an interference

on the part of this same public power in affairs of conscience, and as an intolerable intrusion by a political faction into a situation which is consummately dangerous, in as much as it dislocates our social life.

"Sufficient reasons these, aside from loving my country and for the public good and, much more so, aside from being a Catholic bishop and the father and pastor of the people harassed by this law, I am obliged to protest as I do before the First Magistrate of the Nation and to exhort him in the name of the country and in that of his honor and dignity as Governor, and by his conscience, and even in behalf of the Constitution, itself, which he has sworn to observe, to interpose all of his influence to the end that this measure, which reflects so lamentably upon the good fame of the government, be not carried out, and that he listen, as he is obligated to do, to the voice and will of the people and not to the voices, regardless how clamorous they may be, of a political faction which is an enemy to public peace, to national reconstruction, to the government and finally to the ideals of the revolution itself.

"I repeat my attentive consideration."

(Signed) "PASCUAL DIAZ,
"Archbishop of Mexico."

Chinese Bandit Chief Asks For Baptism On Deathbed, Converted

Iehang, China.—Baptizing a bandit chief on his deathbed is the happy experience of Father Genti, O. F. M., of Mamping, Hupeh, who received at his dispensary an outlaw wounded in a battle with the citizens of the place. When he learned that he was to die he exclaimed: 'Baptize me then; I wish to die a Christian!'

While the missionary dressed the wounds of the outlaw he said a prayer for his conversion, but when the stricken man came out with the sudden request for baptism he was loathe to believe in the sincerity of the request. Furthermore, since it was a bandit chief he had on his hands he had to be careful that the conversion should arouse no scandal but rather should act as a good example. To quiet his own conscience, therefore, as well as the conscience of the sick man, he took advantage of a visit of the general and some bandit officers, and in their presence questioned the wounded colonel.

"Do you believe in God and do you desire Baptism?" he asked.

"Yes, with all my heart."

"But are you sorry for your sins?"

You have robbed the people, hated them, committed many crimes against them, to say nothing of your many other faults—are you sorry for all these? And if you are sorry do you promise in case you get better that you will renounce banditry and make good, inasmuch as you are able, all the injustices committed by you?"

The colonel promised without batting an eye while the bandit general and officers stupefied at his words listened in silence.

The missionary instructed him and baptized him and had the consolation of seeing him die like a good Christian.

Cincinnati, O. F. M., Provincial of the Cincinnati Province of the Franciscans, has returned to this city from a visit to the Franciscan missions in the Orient.

Father Urban bore back with him a fund of varied and colorful experiences and information concerning conditions in China, since he arrived at the time that the great flood in China was at its height.

Sister Third Member Of Her Family to Make Jubilee As A Religious

Hoboken, N. J.—Sister Leocadia, of St. Mary's hospital, here, a member of the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis, is the third member of her family to have celebrated the silver jubilee of entrance into the religious life.

Catholic Radio Station Now Most Powerful In Three States Of South

New Orleans, La.—Concurrent with the announcement that WWL, Loyola University radio station, has been given permission by the Federal Radio Commission to increase its power from 5,000 to 10,000 watts has come the announcement that the local station plans a new 10,000 watt transmitter and a new studio which will cost about \$100,000.

The new transmitter will cost about \$80,000 and will be built about ten miles from this city. When completed it will make the Loyola station the most powerful in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The new studio will be located in the business section of the city.

Pre-School Children Decrease Points To Birth Control Spread

Washington.—Predictions of Catholic leaders, speaking in denunciation of the spread of birth control, are borne out in the announcement made recently by the Office of Education, Department of the Interior, that the number of pre-school children in the United States is decreasing.

Although there were 17,000,000 more people in the country in 1930 than in 1920, there was a decrease of 128,840 children under five years of age. The year by year increase in first-year enrollments which has been traced in school administration has ceased and an era of actually decreasing numbers has been reached.

Chick Meehan Named New Football Coach At Manhattan College

New York.—John F. (Chick) Meehan has been named director of physical education and football coach at Manhattan College here. Brother Francis, F. S. C., faculty director of athletics at the College, announced recently.

Mr. Meehan was football coach at New York University for seven years, resigning from that post recently. At Manhattan College he succeeds as coach John Law, former star at the University of Notre Dame, who recently resigned. Mr. Meehan is president of the American Football Coaches' Association.

Italian Headquarters At Dublin Congress

Rome.—Earlsfort Terrace will be the headquarters of the Italian delegation to the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin next June. The Church of St. Andrew will be used for the Italian meetings and services. Every morning during the Congress Italian priests will hear confessions and say Mass there.